TEXAS COMPTROLLER $\it of$ Public Accounts

P.O. Box 13528 • Austin, TX 78711-3528

THE COLUMN

August 7, 2014

Dr. James Gilcrease Superintendent Hillsboro Independent School District 121 East Franklin Street Hillsboro, TX 76645

Dear Superintendent Gilcrease:

On June 10, 2014, the Comptroller issued written notice that IKO Southwest, Inc. (the applicant) submitted a completed application (Application #1006) for a limitation on appraised value under the provisions of Tax Code Chapter 313¹. This application was originally submitted on April 7, 2014, to the Hillsboro Independent School District (the school district) by the applicant.

This presents the results of the Comptroller's review of the application and determinations required:

- 1) under Section 313.025(h) to determine if the property meets the requirements of Section 313.024 for eligibility for a limitation on appraised value under Chapter 313, Subchapter C; and
- 2) under Section 313.025(d), to issue a certificate for a limitation on appraised value of the property and provide the certificate to the governing body of the school district or provide the governing body a written explanation of the comptroller's decision not to issue a certificate, using the criteria set out in Section 313.026.

Determination required by 313.025(h)

Sec. 313.024(a)	Applicant is subject to tax imposed by Chapter 171.
Sec. 313.024(b)	Applicant is proposing to use the property for an eligible project.
Sec. 313.024(d)	Applicant has committed to create the required number of new qualifying jobs
	and pay all jobs created that are not qualifying jobs a wage that exceeds the
	county average weekly wage for all jobs in the county where the jobs are located.
Sec. 313.024(d-2)	Not applicable to Application #1006.

Based on the information provided by the applicant, the Comptroller has determined that the property meets the requirements of Section 313.024 for eligibility for a limitation on appraised value under Chapter 313, Subchapter C.

Certificate decision required by 313.025(d)

Determination required by 313.026(c)(1)

The Comptroller has determined that the project proposed by the applicant is reasonably likely to generate tax revenue in an amount sufficient to offset the school district maintenance and operations ad valorem tax revenue lost as a result of the agreement before the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the limitation period. See Attachment B.

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¹ All statutory references are to the Texas Tax Code, unless otherwise noted.

Determination required by 313.026(c)(2)

The Comptroller has determined that the limitation on appraised value is a determining factor in the applicant's decision to invest capital and construct the project in this state. See Attachment C.

Based on these determinations, the Comptroller issues a certificate for a limitation on appraised value. This certificate is contingent on the school district's receipt and acceptance of the Texas Education Agency's determination per 313.025(b-1).

The Comptroller's review of the application assumes the accuracy and completeness of the statements in the application. If the application is approved by the school district, the applicant shall perform according to the provisions of the Texas Economic Development Act Agreement (Form 50-286) executed with the school district. The school district shall comply with and enforce the stipulations, provisions, terms, and conditions of the agreement, applicable Texas Administrative Code and Chapter 313, per TAC 9.1054(i)(3).

This certificate is no longer valid if the application is modified, the information presented in the application changes, or the limitation agreement does not conform to the application. Additionally, this certificate is contingent on the school district approving and executing the agreement within a year from the date of this letter.

Note that any building or improvement existing as of the application review start date of June 10, 2014, or any tangible personal property placed in service prior to that date may not become "Qualified Property" as defined by 313.021(2) and the Texas Administrative Code.

Should you have any questions, please contact Robert Wood, director of Economic Development & Analysis Division, by email at robert.wood@cpa.state.tx.us or by phone at 1-800-531-5441, ext. 3-3973, or direct in Austin at 512-463-3973.

Sincerely,

Deputy Comptroller

Enclosure

cc: Robert Wood

Attachment A – Economic Impact Analysis

This following tables summarizes the Comptroller's economic impact analysis of IKO Southwest, Inc. (the project) applying to Hillsboro Independent School District (the district), as required by Tax Code, 313.026 and Texas Administrative Code 9.1055(d)(2).

Table 1 is a summary of investment, employment and tax impact of IKO Southwest, Inc.

Applicant	IKO Southwest Inc.
Tax Code, 313.024 Eligibility Category	Manufacturing
School District	Hillsboro ISD
2011-12 Enrollment in School District	1,970
County	Hill
Proposed Total Investment in District	\$145,950,000
Proposed Qualified Investment	\$78,000,000
Limitation Amount	\$20,000,000
Number of new qualifying jobs committed to by applicant	25
Number of new non-qualifying jobs estimated by applicant	15
Average weekly wage of qualifying jobs committed to by applicant	\$807.69
Minimum weekly wage required for each qualifying job by Tax Code, 313.021(5)(A)	\$805
Minimum annual wage committed to by applicant for qualified jobs	\$42,000
Minimum weekly wage required for non-qualifying jobs	\$665
Minimum annual wage required for non-qualifying jobs	\$34,567
Investment per Qualifying Job	\$5,838,000
The state of the s	
Estimated M&O levy without any limit (15 years)	\$10,183,851
Estimated M&O levy with Limitation (15 years)	\$4,541,039
Estimated gross M&O tax benefit (15 years)	\$5,642,812

Table 2 is the estimated statewide economic impact of IKO Southwest, Inc. (modeled).

EARL T		Employment		Personal Income				
Year	Direct	Indirect + Induced	Total	Direct	Indirect + Induced	Total		
2014	0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
2015	150	161	311	\$5,250,000	\$11,750,000	\$17,000,000		
2016	81	507	588	\$3,010,000		\$48,000,000		
2017	25	530	555	\$1,050,000		\$50,000,000		
2018	25	573	598	\$1,050,000	\$54,950,000	\$56,000,000		
2019	25	580	605	\$1,060,500	\$58,939,500	\$60,000,000		
2020	25	584	609	\$1,071,100	\$62,928,900	\$64,000,000		
2021	25	592	617	\$1,081,825	\$66,918,175	\$68,000,000		
2022	25	584	609	\$1,092,625	\$68,907,375	\$70,000,000		
2023	25	573	598	\$1,103,550	\$70,896,450	\$72,000,000		
2024	25	569	594	\$1,114,600	\$72,885,400	\$74,000,000		
2025	25	569	594	\$1,125,750	\$75,874,250	\$77,000,000		
2026	25	571	596	\$1,137,000	\$80,863,000	\$82,000,000		
2027	25	586	611	\$1,182,475	\$84,817,525	\$86,000,000		
2028	25	596	621	\$1,182,475	\$88,817,525	\$90,000,000		
2029	25	602	627	\$1,182,475	\$93,817,525	\$95,000,000		

Source: CPA, REMI, IKO Southwest, Inc.

Table 3 examines the estimated direct impact on ad valorem taxes to the region if all taxes are assessed.

	Estimated	Estimated		Hillsboro		Hillsboro ISD	*	Hill County Jr.			
	Taxable Value	Taxable Value		ISD I&S	Hillsboro ISD	M&O and I&S	Hill County Tax		City of Hillsboro	Estimated Total	
Year	for I&S	for M&O		Tax Levy	M&O Tax Levy	Tax Levies	Levy	Levy	Tax Levy	Property Taxes	
			Tax Rate ¹	0.2600	1.1500		0.5413		44.00		
2015	\$500,000	\$500,000	10	\$1,300	\$5,750	\$7,050		\$458			
2016	\$24,500,000	\$24,500,000		\$63,700	\$281,750	\$345,450		\$22,421	\$200,491	\$700,983	
2017	\$78,552,500	\$78,552,500		\$204,237	\$903,354	\$1,107,590	\$425,214				
2018	\$76,263,163	\$76,263,163	+	\$198,284	\$877,026	\$1,075,311	\$412,822				
2019	\$74,042,252	\$74,042,252		\$192,510	\$851,486	\$1,043,996				\$2,118,465	
2020	\$71,887,724	\$71,887,724		\$186,908	\$826,709	\$1,013,617	\$389,137			\$2,056,821	
2021	\$69,791,092	\$69,791,092		\$181,457	\$802,598	\$984,054					
2022	\$67,757,360	\$67,757,360	51	\$176,169	\$779,210	\$955,379	\$366,779				
2023	\$65,784,639	\$65,784,639		\$171,040	\$756,523	\$927,563	\$356,100				
2024	\$63,871,100	\$63,871,100	i i	\$166,065	\$734,518	\$900,583	\$345,742				
2025	\$62,014,967	\$62,014,967		\$161,239	\$713,172	\$874,411	\$335,694				
2026	\$60,214,518	\$60,214,518		\$156,558	\$692,467	\$849,025	\$325,948				_
2027	\$58,468,082	\$58,468,082		\$152,017	\$672,383	\$824,400					
2028	\$56,774,040	\$56,774,040		\$147,613	\$652,901	\$800,514	\$307,325			\$1,624,394	-
2029	\$55,130,818	\$55,130,818		\$143,340	\$634,004	\$777,345	\$298,430				
				1 de 1	Total	\$12,486,287	\$4,793,601	\$810,404	\$7,246,749	\$25,337,040	

Source: CPA, IKO Southwest, Inc. ¹Tax Rate per \$100 Valuation

Table 4 examines the estimated direct impact on ad valorem taxes to the school district and Hill County, with all property tax incentives sought being granted using estimated market value from the application. The project has applied for a value limitation under Chapter 313, Tax Code and tax abatement with the county, Hill County Jr.

College, and the City of Hillsboro. The difference noted in the last line is the difference between the totals in Table 3 and Table 4.

Year	Estimated Taxable Value for I&S	Estimated Taxable Value	18	Hillsboro ISD I&S	Hillsboro ISD	Hillsboro ISD M&O and I&S	Hill County Tax	Hill County Jr. College Tax	City of Hillsboro	Estimated Total
Tear	101 103	for M&O	1	Tax Levy	M&O Tax Levy	Tax Levies	Levy	Levy	Tax Levy	Property Taxes
		10	Tax Rate	0.2600	1.1500	9-31	0.5413	0.0915	0.8183	
2015	\$500,000	\$500,000	-	\$1,300	\$5,750	\$7,050	\$2,707	\$458	\$4,092	\$14,30
2016	\$24,500,000			\$63,700	\$281,750	\$345,450	\$132,621	\$22,421	\$200,491	\$700,98
2017	\$78,552,500			\$204,237	\$230,000	\$434,237	\$42,521	\$7,189	\$64,282	\$548,22
2018	\$76,263,163	\$20,000,000		\$198,284	\$230,000	\$428,284	\$41,282	\$6,979	\$62,409	\$538,95
2019	\$74,042,252	\$20,000,000		\$192,510	\$230,000	\$422,510	\$40,080	\$6,776	\$60,591	\$529,95
2020	\$71,887,724	\$20,000,000		\$186,908	\$230,000	\$416,908	\$38,914	\$6,579		\$521,22
2021	\$69,791,092	\$20,000,000		\$181,457	\$230,000	\$411,457	\$37,779	\$6,387	\$57,112	\$512,73
2022	\$67,757,360	\$20,000,000		\$176,169	\$230,000	\$406,169	\$36,678	\$6,201	\$55,448	\$504,49
2023	\$65,784,639	\$20,000,000	73	\$171,040	\$230,000	\$401,040	\$35,610	\$6,020		\$496,50
2024	\$63,871,100	\$20,000,000	J	\$166,065	\$230,000	\$396,065	\$34,574	\$5,845		
2025	\$62,014,967	\$20,000,000		\$161,239	\$230,000	\$391,239				\$481,23
2026	\$60,214,518	\$20,000,000		\$156,558	\$230,000	\$386,558	\$32,595	\$5,510		\$473,93
2027	\$58,468,082	\$58,468,082		\$152,017	\$672,383	\$824,400				\$1,672,86
2028	\$56,774,040	\$56,774,040		\$147,613	\$652,901	\$800,514				\$1,624,39
2029	\$55,130,818	\$55,130,818		\$143,340	\$634,004	\$777,345			\$451,153	\$1,577,37
					Total	\$6,849,225	\$1,431,180	\$241,955	\$2,163,592	\$10,685,95
					Diff	\$5,637,062	\$3,362,421	\$568,450	\$5,083,156	\$14,651,08

Source: CPA, IKO Southwest, Inc.

¹Tax Rate per \$100 Valuation

Disclaimer: This examination is based on information from the application submitted to the school district and forwarded to the comptroller. It is intended to meet the statutory requirement of Chapter 313 of the Tax Code and is not intended for any other purpose.

Attachment B - Tax Revenue over 25 Years

This represents the Comptroller's determination that IKO Southwest Inc. (project) is reasonably likely to generate, before the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the limitation period, tax revenue in an amount sufficient to offset the school district maintenance and operations ad valorem tax revenue lost as a result of the agreement. This evaluation is based on an analysis of the estimated M&O portion of the school district property tax levy directly related to this project, using estimated taxable values provided in the application.

	Tax Year	Estimated ISD M&O Tax Levy Generated (Annual)	Estimated ISD M&O Tax Levy Generated (Cumulative)	Estimated ISD M&O Tax Levy Loss as Result of Agreement (Annual)	Estimated ISD M&O Tax Levy Loss as Result of Agreement (Cumulative)
Limitation	2014	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pre-Years	2015	\$5,750	\$5,750	\$0	\$0
	2016	\$281,750	\$287,500	\$0	\$0
	2017	\$230,000	\$517,500	\$673,354	\$673,354
	2018	\$230,000	\$747,500	\$647,026	\$1,320,380
	2019	\$230,000	\$977,500	\$621,486	\$1,941,866
	2020	\$230,000	\$1,207,500	\$596,709	\$2,538,575
Limitation Period	2021	\$230,000	\$1,437,500	\$572,598	\$3,111,172
(10 Years)	2022	\$230,000	\$1,667,500	\$549,210	\$3,660,382
	2023	\$230,000	\$1,897,500	\$526,523	\$4,186,905
	2024	\$230,000	\$2,127,500	\$504,518	\$4,691,423
	2025	\$230,000	\$2,357,500	\$483,172	\$5,174,595
	2026	\$230,000	\$2,587,500	\$462,467	\$5,637,062
	2027	\$672,383	\$3,259,883	\$0	\$5,637,062
Maintain Viable	2028	\$652,901	\$3,912,784	\$0	\$5,637,062
Presence	2029	\$634,004	\$4,546,789	\$0	\$5,637,062
(5 Years)	2030	\$615,674	\$5,162,463	\$0	\$5,637,062
	2031	\$597,894	\$5,760,357	\$0	\$5,637,062
	2032	\$580,647	\$6,341,004	\$0	\$5,637,062
	2033	\$563,918	\$6,904,922	\$0	\$5,637,062
	2034	\$547,690	\$7,452,612	\$0	\$5,637,062
Additional Years	2035	\$531,950	\$7,984,562	\$0	\$5,637,062
as Required by	2036	\$516,681	\$8,501,243	\$0	\$5,637,062
313.026(c)(1)	2037	\$501,871	\$9,003,114	\$0	\$5,637,062
(10 Years)	2038	\$487,505	\$9,490,618	\$0	\$5,637,062
	2039	\$473,569	\$9,964,188	\$0	\$5,637,062
	2040	\$460,052	\$10,424,240	\$0	\$5,637,062
	2041	\$446,941	\$10,871,181	\$0	\$5,637,062
		\$10,871,181	is greater than	\$5,637,062	
Analysis Summary					- Karana
s the project reaso evy loss as a resul	onably likel	y to generate tax revenu	ue in an amount sufficie	nt to offset the M&O	Yes

Disclaimer: This examination is based on information from the application submitted to the school district and forwarded to the comptroller. It is intended to meet the statutory requirement of Chapter 313 of the Tax Code and is not intended for any other purpose.

Attachment C - Limitation as a Determining Factor

Tax Code 313.026 states that the Comptroller may not issue a certificate for a limitation on appraised value under this chapter for property described in an application unless the comptroller determines that "the limitation on appraised value is a determining factor in the applicant's decision to invest capital and construct the project in this state." This represents the basis for the Comptroller's determination.

Methodology

Texas Administrative Code 9.1055(d) states the Comptroller shall review any information available to the Comptroller including:

- the application, including the responses to the questions in Section 8 (Limitation as a Determining Factor);
- public documents or statements by the applicant concerning business operations or site location issues or in which the applicant is a subject;
- statements by officials of the applicant, public documents or statements by governmental or industry officials concerning business operations or site location issues;
- existing investment and operations at or near the site or in the state that may impact the proposed project;
- announced real estate transactions, utility records, permit requests, industry publications or other sources that may provide information helpful in making the determination; and
- market information, raw materials or other production inputs, availability, existing facility locations, committed incentives, infrastructure issues, utility issues, location of buyers, nature of market, supply chains, other known sites under consideration.

Determination

The Comptroller determined that the <u>limitation</u> on appraised value is a determining factor in the IKO Southwest Inc.'s decision to invest capital and construct the project in this state. This is based on the information available, including information provided by the applicant. Specifically, the comptroller notes the following:

- According to the company they are looking to expand their market share in the US and have been offered extensive incentives totaling approximately \$18 million to build the new factory in Hugo, Oklahoma,
- The applicant just finished construction of a plant in Alabama and has three other asphalt shingle
 plants in the US, four in Canada and two in Europe. The Hillsboro factory would be the
 company's fifth manufacturing factory in the US. They have the ability to invest, locate and
 develop new manufacturing factories in numerous locations throughout the United States, Canada
 and Europe
- The applicant has a Tax Code 312 agreement with Hill College and seeking a Tax Code 312 agreements with the City of Hillsboro and Hill County
- The applicant is also seeking an incentive from the Texas Enterprise fund
- The applicant does not indicate in the application if the limitation on appraised value is a determining factor

Supporting Information

- a) Section 8 of the Application for a Limitation on Appraised Value
- b) Attachments provided in Tab 5 of the Application for a Limitation on Appraised Value
- c) Additional information provided by the Applicant or located by the Comptroller

Disclaimer: This examination is based on information from the application submitted to the school district and forwarded to the comptroller. It is intended to meet the statutory requirement of Chapter 313 of the Tax Code and is not intended for any other purpose.

Supporting Information

Section 8 of the Application for a Limitation on Appraised Value



Application for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property

5	SECTIO	DN 6: Eligibility Under Tax Code Chapter 313.024		-3-0-
1.	Are yo	ou an entity subject to the tax under Tax Code, Chapter 171?	✓ Yes	No
2.	The p	roperty will be used for one of the following activities:		L
	(1)	manufacturing	✓ Yes	No
	(2)	research and development	Yes	√ No
	(3)	a clean coal project, as defined by Section 5.001, Water Code	Yes	✓ No.
	(4)	an advanced clean energy project, as defined by Section 382.003, Health and Safety Code	Yes	√ No
	(5)	renewable energy electric generation	Yes	√ No
	(6)	electric power generation using integrated gasification combined cycle technology	Yes	✓ No
	(7)	nuclear electric power generation	Yes	✓ No
	(8)	a computer center that is used as an integral part or as a necessary auxiliary part for the activity conducted by applicant in one or more activities described by Subdivisions (1) through (7)	Yes	✓ No
	(9)	a Texas Priority Project, as defined by 313.024(e)(7) and TAC 9.1051		
3.	Are vo	ou requesting that any of the land be classified as qualified investment?	Yes	No
4.			Yes	No
5.		ny of the proposed qualified investment be leased under a capitalized lease?	Yes	No
		ny of the proposed qualified investment be leased under an operating lease? at time of application, no land has been acquired. An option exists pending	Yes	No
6.		successful development of project	Yes	No
7.	your c	ny property be pooled or proposed to be pooled with property owned by the applicant in determining the amount of ualified investment?	Yes	✓ No
5	ECTIO	DN 7: Project Description		
1.	in Tat sonal	4, attach a detailed description of the scope of the proposed project, including, at a minimum, the type and planned use of property, the nature of the business, a timeline for property construction or installation, and any other relevant information.	real and ta	ngible per-
2.	Check	the project characteristics that apply to the proposed project:		
	1	Land has no existing improvements Land has existing improvements (complete Se	ction 13)	
		Expansion of existing operation on the land (complete Section 13) Relocation within Texas		
5	ECTIO	DN 8: Limitation as Determining Factor	ESET.	
1.	Does	the applicant currently own the land on which the proposed project will occur?	Yes	✓ No
2.	Has th	ne applicant entered into any agreements or contracts for work to be performed related to the proposed project?	Yes	✓ No
3.	Does	the applicant have current business activities at the location where the proposed project will occur?	Yes	✓ No
4.	Has ti propo	ne applicant made public statements in SEC filings or other official documents regarding its intentions regarding the sed project location?	Yes	✓ No
5.		ne applicant received any local or state permits for activities on the proposed project site?	Yes	✓ No
6.		ne applicant received commitments for state or local incentives for activities at the proposed project site?	Yes	✓ No
7.	Are yo	ou submitting information to assist in the determination as to whether the limitation on appraised value is a determining		V
	factor	in the applicant's decision to invest capital and construct the project in Texas?	Yes	√ No
		ne applicant considered or is the applicant considering other locations not in Texas for the proposed project?	√ Yes	No
9.	Has the	ne applicant provided capital investment or return on investment information for the proposed project in comparison ther afternative investment opportunities?	Yes	✓ No
10	. Has th	ne applicant provided information related to the applicant's inputs, transportation and markets for the proposed project?	Yes	✓ No
lf ·	you an	swered "yes" to any of the questions in Section 8, attach supporting information in Tab 5.		to and

Supporting Information

Attachments provided in Tab 5 of the Application for a Limitation on Appraised Value

IKO Southwest Inc

Chapter 313 Application to Hillsboro ISD

Cummings Westlake, LLC

TAB 5

Documentation to assist in determining if limitation is a determining factor.

IKO Southwest Inc (IKO) and its parent company Goldis Enterprises Inc. are privately-owned companies that are part of the IKO group of companies. Founded in 1951, IKO owns and operates three other asphalt shingle manufacturing plants in the US, four in Canada, and two in Europe. IKO is actively seeking to expand their market share in the US by developing and constructing this project in Hillsboro, TX. IKO is also considering, and has received offers from the State of Oklahoma to locate this proposed facility in that state.

"The State of Oklahoma, Choctaw County, and the City of Hugo have offered extensive incentives to IKO to build its new factory in the City of Hugo. These incentives include:

- property tax abatements
- a cash rebate of a portion of the company's payroll for a period of ten years
- exemption of sales/use taxes for machinery, equipment, raw materials, and energy used in manufacturing
- reimbursement of sales/use tax paid on construction materials
- training and recruitment incentives
- extensive investment in infrastructure for the factory, including public roads, private roads on the factory site, rail spur with switches and crossing, water line, sewer line, site preparation, and engineering

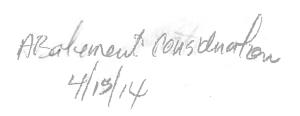
The total value of all the state, county, and city incentives is approximately \$18 million."

IKO Southwest Inc has the ability to invest, locate and develop new (asphalt roofing shingle) manufacturing factories in numerous locations throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Supporting Information

Additional information provided by the Applicant or located by the Comptroller







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Goard of Regents Meeting Agenda Posted

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AGENDA

For the Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents

Of Hill College

To be held

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

At noon, in the Hill College Bob Bullock Room

II to Order

e Hill College Regents may adjourn to closed or executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code for any and all purposes rmitted by Sections 551.071, inclusive of the Open Meetings Act, including, but not limited to: Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters nsidering the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or ar complaints or charges against a public officer or employee; Section 551.072 – for discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value real property.

proval of Minutes

Regular Meeting - March 18, 2014

iancial Report

Consideration of Financial Report for March

mmunications to the Board

President's Report Athletic Report Construction Update

w Business

Consideration of Approval of Bids
Consideration of Approval of Citation Fees
Consideration of Approval for 2015-2016 Calendar and Revision of 2014-2015 Calendar
Consideration of Approval for 60 hour Requirement for AA, AS and AAT Degrees
Consideration of Approval for Study Abroad Program
Consideration of Approval for Performance and Tax Abatement Agreement with IKO Southwest, Inc.

rsonnel Considerations

Staff Appointments
Resignations and Terminations

dience

her Business

journment

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Burleson (../../about/Locations/Burleson.html) (817) 295-7392 Meridian (../../about/Locations/Meridian.html) (254) 435-2442

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County's Namesake Celebrated At Meeting

The namesake of Hill County was celebrated as commissioners' court met Tuesday, April 22, wilch was the 200th birthday of Dr. George Washington Hill.

A portrait of Hill had hung in the first floor hallway of the courthouse prior to the

January 1993 fire that nearly destroyed the building. While escaping major damage, the portrait had been housed at the Cell Block Museum since being recovered the day after the fire.

At the start of the meeting, Joyce Reid, president of Hill County Historical Commission, returned the portrait to the court, and it was returned to the halfway

outside the county courtroom. A brief biography was presented by Will Lowrance, noting that the Tennessee native

moved to Texas in the 1830s, settling in the Franklin area.

Trained in medicine, he was also an entrepreneur, having traveled to the Dawson area to trade with the Native American Indians.

He was first elected to the House of Representatives for the Republic of Texas and then served as Secretary of War for Sam Houston

He was serving in the Texas Senate when the bill creating Hill County was passed.
"I don't think he really meant for the county to be named after him," Lowrance explained. "The clerk inserted his name in the blank when the bill was read on the

A plaque containing the biographical information is being prepared to be placed beneath the portrait.

The historical commission hosted cake and punch for Hill's birthday party in the basement of the courthouse following the presentation. Patrons of the Hillsboro City Library benefited in the afternoon as the remaining

cake was served.

District Clerk Angelia Orr presented the court an update on the e-filing process for all civil cases, which has been mandated by the Texas Supreme Court.

The mandate applies to both the district and county clerk offices. The move is

expected to generate cost savings because all cases will be filed electronically with

the court.

While Hill County isn't required to implement the program until January 2016, Mrs.

Orr said she anticipated having the system up and running by the end of the year to coincide with the changes in judges in the district court and county court-at-law. All criminal cases are expected to have to be filed electronically within 24 months, according to the official.

More information on the e-filing project will be featured in a future edition of The Reporter Newspaper

The court officially accepted its County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, which is part of the County Energy

Transportation Investment Zone creation.
The county initially thought it would receive \$250,000, but when the award was

announced, the figure was \$318,719.

There were concerns about findings in the contract that indicated the county would pay for any right-of-way acquisition, environmental studies and utility relocation. Interim Road Manager Donnie Jennings said that none of the findings apply to the roads identified for improvement with the grant money.

Commissioner Larry Wright questioned what would happen if there wasn't enough grant money to complete the road projects.

Commissioner Danny Bodeker, who has been the leader on the process, said that addressing a bridge and culverts would be top priorities, with the balance of the money used to add road base until the money runs out.

The grant is reimbursable, meaning the county will have to expend the money before receiving funds from the other.

before receiving funds from the state.

A uniform culvert installation policy for the county was discussed. Each of the commissioners had varying policies when they were in charge prior to the optional road system.

It was suggested that Texas Department of Transportation guidelines be provided property owners, who would then be responsible for all installation costs. Jennings and Bodeker were charged with bringing a policy back to the court for consideration

Janle Haddaway was named to fill a vacancy on the Child Protective Service Board of Directors

Following a final hearing, the speed limit on HCR 1414 from the Johnson County line to Farm Road 934 was increased from 20 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. An agreement with County Information Resources Agency Services was extended to retain the county's Internet domain name, co.hill.tx.us. The fee was \$550. An upgrade to a postage machine used by several offices was approved, along with a \$250 credit card expenditure to advertise the road engineer's position through Strategic Government Resources.

A closed session led to the approval of a 312 tax abatement agreement for IKO Southwest, an asphalt shingle manufacturer, which is considering building a plant in

More details on the industrial prospect were featured in the Thursday, April 24, edition of The Reporter Newspaper

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